

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. An ink container for containing ink to be supplied to an ink jet head to which said ink container is detachably mountable, comprising:
 - 5 an ink supply port for supplying the ink to said ink jet head;
 - 10 a air vent for fluid communication with ambience;
 - 15 a claw-like projection provided on a first side of said ink container;
 - 20 a latching lever provided on a second side opposite from said ink container, said latching lever being resiliently supported on said ink container and having a latching claw.

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2. A container according to Claim 1, wherein a top side of said ink container adjacent said first side is provided with a stepped portion.
- 25 3. A container according to Claim 1, wherein a projection is provided on a top end portion of a side connecting said first and second sides adjacent said first side.
4. A container according to Claim 1, wherein said latching lever is supported on a bottom side of said ink container adjacent said second side, and is

inclined or curved outwardly.

5. A container according to Claim 1, wherein
said first side having the claw-like projection is
inclined adjacent a bottom of said ink container.

10 6. A container according to Claim 1, wherein
said container contains only one color ink.

15 7. A container according to Claim 1, wherein
said container contains a plurality of color inks, and
wherein said container is partitioned into the
plurality of chambers, each of which has said supply
port, to contain the color inks.

20 8. A container according to Claim 7, wherein the
plurality of supply ports are arranged in a direction
from said first side to said second side.

25 9. An ink container holder for holding an ink
container for containing ink to be supplied to an ink
jet head, comprising:

an opening for receiving the ink container;

25 an ink receiving tube for receiving the ink
from said ink container;

a first internal wall having a first engaging
hole for engagement with a claw-like projection of the

ink container;

5 a second internal wall having a second
engaging hole for engagement with a latching claw of a
latching lever of the ink container; and

15 a projected portion for covering a part of
said opening.

10. An ink container holder according to Claim 9,
wherein an engaging recess is formed in a top portion
10 of a wall connecting said first internal wall and said
second internal wall at and end adjacent said first
internal wall.

15. An ink container holder according to Claim 9,
further comprising a latching lever guide groove for
guiding a latching lever of the ink container, said
guiding groove having an engaging hole.

20. An ink container holder according to Claim 9,
20 further comprising urging means for urging a bottom
surface of the ink container toward the opening.

25. An ink container holder according to Claim 9,
wherein a plurality of ink receiving means are
provided to extend in a direction from the first
internal wall to the second internal wall.

14. An ink container holder according to Claim 9,
wherein a plurality of partition walls for
partitioning the opening into the plurality of
portions, for each of which said first engaging hole
and said second engaging hole are provided.

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15. An ink container holder according to Claim 14, wherein the plurality is two, and in one of portions receives one color ink container, and the other receives color containers.

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16. An ink container holder according to Claim 14, wherein a crossing portion between said bottom and said first internal wall is provided with an inclined portion.

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17. An ink container holder according to Claim 9, further comprising a 6 with which said ink receptor is in fluid communication with said recording head.

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18. An ink container holder according to Claim 18, wherein said holder is mounted on a carriage reciprocally movable, and said holder further comprises a positioning portion, on a first side, for positioning the ink container; an electric contact for electric connection with head contacts of an ink jet head mounted to said ink container; a guiding member,

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resiliently supported on a second side, for engagement with an engaging portion of said ink container holder.

5 19. An ink container holder according to Claim 18, wherein said head contact and said engaging portion are arranged on a line parallel to said wall.

10 20. An ink container holder according to Claim 19, wherein an operating portion is projected out.

21. An ink container holder according to Claim 20, wherein said operating portion and said engaging hole are provided at different positions.

15 22. An ink container holder according to Claim 17, wherein said recording head has electrothermal transducers for generating thermal energy for ejecting the ink.

20 23. An ink container holder according to Claim 22, wherein the thermal energy causes film boiling of the ink.

25 24. An ink container holder for holding an ink container for containing ink to be supplied to an ink jet head with which said ink container is integral, said ink container holder is detachably mountable to a

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carriage reciprocally movable, comprising:

the improvement residing in that first
operating portion for mounting and demounting of said
ink container and a second operating portion for
mounting and demounting thereof relative to the
carriage, are provided in a same side relative to a
movement direction of said carriage.

25. An ink container holder according to Claim
10 24, wherein said first operating portion is located
above said second operating portion.

26. An ink container holder according to Claim
15 24, wherein a plurality of such first operating
portions are provided, which are arranged on a line.

27. A reciprocable carriage for an ink jet
apparatus, comprising:

20 a mounting portion for mounting an ink
container holder;

a positioning portion, on a first side, for
positioning the ink container;

25 an electric contact for electric connection
with head contacts of an ink jet head mounted to said
ink container;

a guiding member, resiliently supported on a
second side, for engagement with an engaging portion

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of said ink container holder.

28. A carriage according to Claim 27, further comprising a cover for covering a part of the ink
5 container.

29. A carriage according to Claim 27, wherein
said contact and said guiding member are faced to each
10 other.

30. A carriage according to Claim 30, further comprising two bearings on a guiding shaft and two
sandwiching portions for sandwiching the guiding
shaft, and a distance between members constituting one
15 of said sandwiching portions is larger than a distance
between members constituting the other of said
sandwiching portions.

31. An ink jet apparatus having said carriage
20 defined in Claim 27, comprising means for supplying
electric signal to said recording head of said ink
container holder to eject the ink.

32. An ink container according to Claim 1,
25 wherein a top portion of said latching lever is
inclined away from the side, and the tapered portion
is contactable to the side.

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33. An ink container according to Claim 32,
wherein said latching lever has a portion bent to be
closer to the side.

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34. An ink container according to Claim 33,
wherein said latching lever has a central portion
having a larger thickness.

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35. An ink container according to Claim 1,
wherein bottom side has a recess for escaping a spring
of a holder.

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36. An ink container according to Claim 1,
wherein said ink supply port has a rectangular shape
with a long side extending in a mounting direction of
said ink container.

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37. An ink container according to Claim 1,
wherein a guiding portion is provided around said ink
supply port, said guiding portion is elongated in a
mounting direction of said ink container.

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38. An ink container according to Claim 8,
wherein said ink container has yellow, magenta and
cyan ink containing portions in this order.

39. An ink container according to Claim 1.

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wherein said latching lever is curved away from the side.

40. A protection member for an ink container
5 having an engaging projection, elastic latching lever with a latching claw and ink supply portion, comprising:

10 a protecting portion for covering said latching lever lever without contact thereto;
10 a bottom portion for covering said ink supply port, said bottom portion having an ink absorbing material or a cap;
15 a recess for engagement with said projection;
15 an engaging portion for engagement with a corner of the ink container adjacent said lever.

41. A combination of a first and second ink containers, for being mounted to an ink container holder for holding a plurality of ink containers, and
20 detachably mountable to a reciprocable carriage, comprising:

25 a first mark indicative of a first color of the ink, corresponding to a first mark on said ink holder;
25 a second mark indicative of a second color of the ink, corresponding to a second mark on aid ink holder.

42. An ink jet recording apparatus, comprising:
a reciprocable carriage;
a holder having an integral ink jet head,
said holder being detachably mountable to said
5 carriage;
ink containers each detachably mountable to
said holder by engagement and disengagement between an
engaging portion and a latching claw of each of said
ink containers, which have different colors.
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